REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8 and 12-28 are currently pending in this application. The amendments to the claims are supported in the originally filed specification, for example, as follows: Claim 1, 12, and 18: page 13, [0041], page 14, [0046]. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejection – Obviousness

Claims 1, 4-8, 12-23 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Aibe et al. (US 5,288,306) in view of Toshihiko (Japanese Document No. JP 05-015576). (Office Action, page 2).

Claims 1, 12, and 18 are amended to clearly set forth the subject matter. No new matter is added.

The rejection asserts that Toshihiko discloses that the chemical solution is one that includes a cobalt phtalocyanine complex or an iron phthalocyanine complex that is alkali regulated with sodium hydroxide so as to have a high pH environment (Office Action page 2-3).

The Applicants believe that it is misunderstanding due to incorrect machine-translation of Toshihiko. Toshihiko discloses a deodorant compound which comprise "hardly water-soluble metal hydroxide" which was wrongly translated as "damage-at-sea solubility metal hydroxide" in the machine-translation. Toshihiko does not in fact disclose a cobalt phtalocyanine complex or an iron phthalocyanine complex that is "alkali regulated with sodium hydroxide." Toshihiko is correctly translated as follows:

> [0021] (b) Metal hydroxide
>
> A metal hydroxide which is another component of the deodorant compound of this invention is preferably hardly water-soluble around neutral condition. Specifically, it is a hardly water-soluble metal hydroxide, the dissolution amount of which is less than 5mg to 100ml of water. Preferably, hardly water-soluble one of the dissolution amount of less than 1mg, more preferably less than 0.5mg is used. The hardly water-soluble metal hydroxide itself is publicly known and produced by a publicly known method.

> [0022] Such metal hydroxides include more than bivalent ones such as Al, Cu, Fe, Mn, Cr, Ni. Especially, hydroxides of Al and Cu are preferred and the one having larger specific surface area is specially proffered.

On the other hand, the present application states as follows (Specification, pages 13, and 14. Emphasis added):

> [0041] It is possible to prepare the first deodorizing filter (2) under high-pH environment, by washing and drying the filter(honeycomb filter, etc.) of the cationized active-carbon-filled paper, immersing it <u>in an aqueous alkaline solution</u> containing a metal phthalocyanine complex, and washing and drying the resulting filter. The first deodorizing filter (2) under high-pH environment is not particularly limited to the filter prepared by the method above.
>
> [0046] The aqueous solution above is not particularly limited, and for example, a nonvolatile mineral acid such as aqueous phosphoric acid solution, and the like.

Therefore, the hydroxide in the claims of this invention is clearly water-soluble hydroxide which is chemically different from a hardly water-soluble one. The present invention uses an aqueous hydroxide solution, while Toshihiko uses hardly water-soluble metal hydroxide. Moreover, the present invention uses an aqueous hydroxide solution to have a filter being alkali regulated so as to have a high pH environment, while Toshihiko uses hardly water-soluble metal hydroxide as another component of the deodorant compound. Therefore, they are different in action and function of metal hydroxide.

Moreover, as asserted again, the hydroxyl becomes water and is released to an outside of the filter system at the time of drying by adjusting the alkalinity of the filter with a metallic hydroxide. Metallic ions are absorbed by substituent (e.g., -COOH, $-SO_3H$) of a phthalocyanine complex in the claimed invention, therefore the claimed invention has an advantage that phthalocyanine complex, for example, does not lose its performance and features and can accomplish the *unexpected result* of

deodorizing basic and acidic odors efficiently at the same time. If the "hydroxide" were "hardly water-soluble metal hydroxide" as of Toshihiko, the invention would not have such an *unexpected result.*

As set forth, the Applicants assert that Toshihiko does not disclose a cobalt phtalocyanine complex or an iron phthalocyanine complex that is alkali regulated with an aqueous hydroxide solution as claimed. Toshihiko does not compensate for deficiencies of Aibe. As a result, the combination of references fails to make the invention now claimed *prima facie* obvious.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection would be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aibe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,306) in view of Toshihiko (Japanese Document No. JP 05-015576). as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,830,414). (Office Action, Page 4)

Ishii is cited for the disclosure of a quaternary ammonium salt. However, Ishii does not compensate for the deficiencies in the combination of Aibe and Toshihiko described above. Therefore the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection would be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aibe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,306) in view of Toshihiko (Japanese Document No. JP 05-015576) as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Lindhe(U.S. Patent No. 5,944,878). (Office Action, Page 6)

Lindhe is cited for disclosing a set of filters, provided with hydrazine and polyvinylamine, to remove malodorous gasses. However, Lindhe does not compensate for the deficiencies in the combination of Aibe and Toshihiko described above. Therefore the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection would be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Respectfully submitted,

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